THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As on 1.4.2000 prognosticated resources are 28,090 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) while the established in-place geological reserves of country are estimated at 6851.57 MMT.

(b) (i) Hydrocarbon resource prognostication is carried out to assess the potential of a basin, the methodology for which is highly data dependent and therefor the resources assessed are subjective. The prognosticated resources as also the in-place discovered reserves, generally increase with time as more and more geo-scientific knowledge is gathered about the basins. Continuous exploratory efforts by National/Private E&P companies have resulted in increasing the number of basins which are likely to be Hydrocarbon bearing.

(ii) The indigenous oil production of the country is almost stagnant during the last 10-12 years, whereas the demand for the same is increasing.

(c) In comparison with the moderate response in earlier rounds, under the first round of New Exploration Licensing policy (NELP), 45 bids were received for 27 of the 48 blocks offered, out of which 25 blocks have been awarded to Foreign and Indian companies.

(d) In order to further encourage exploration in Indian basins, Government have recently announced the second round of NELP under which 25 blocks have been offered.

Filling up of senior level posts in Oil PSUs

655. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of senior level posts in oil PSUs including Director (Operations) in ONGC and CMD, GAIL are lying vacant for a long time; if so, the details of all such vacancies;

(b) whether Prime Minister's office has been convinced to fill up these posts urgently. If so, the details of bottlenecks involved; and

(c) what has been the response of Prime Minister's Officer on these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) A few posts are presently lying vacant, the details of which are as under:

S.No.	Name of the Post	Date of vacancy
1.	Chairman & Managing Director, Gas Authority of India Ltd.	1.2.2001
2.	Managing Director, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	1.12.2000
3.	Director (Drilling), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	1.10.2000

The post of Director (Operations), ONGC has been filled up on 19th February, 2001.

(b) and (c) The Ministry is vigorously processing the cases to expeditiously fill up the vacancies.

Deficit in Oil Pool Account

†656. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present assessment made by Government about the deficit in the oil pool account by the end of year 2000-2001;

(b) the total deficit in the oil pool account; and

(c) what was the deficit at the end of years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The oil pool deficit is estimated to be around Rs. 12,000 crore at the end of the year 2000-01. The oil pool deficit at the end of the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 3,408 crore and Rs. 6,256 crore respectively.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.